

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16. (Canceled)

Claim 17. (Canceled)

Claims 18 and 19. (Canceled)

Claims 20-26. (Canceled)

27. (new) An isolated protein comprising the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO: 4.

28. (new) An isolated protein consisting of the sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:

4.

29. (new) An isolated variant of a protein comprising the amino acid shown in SEQ ID NO:4, wherein the variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 95% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

30. (new) The isolated variant protein of claim 29 wherein the variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

31. (new) The isolated variant protein of claim 29 wherein the variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 97% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

32. (new) The isolated variant protein of claim 29 wherein the variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 98% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

33. (new) The isolated variant protein of claim 29 wherein the variant comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 99% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

34. (new) A method of increasing abiotic stress tolerance in yeast comprising expressing a protein of claim 27 in said yeast such that said yeast demonstrate increased abiotic stress tolerance as compared with control yeast.

35. (new) A method of increasing abiotic stress tolerance in yeast comprising expressing a protein of claim 28 in said yeast such that said yeast demonstrate increased abiotic stress tolerance as compared with control yeast.

36. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein said abiotic stress is temperature stress.

37. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said abiotic stress is temperature stress.

38. (new) The method of claim 34 wherein said abiotic stress is cold temperature stress.

39. (new) The method of claim 35 wherein said abiotic stress is cold temperature stress.